



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE

Humanities

DIVISION OF PRESERVATION AND ACCESS

## **Narrative Section of a Successful Application**

The attached document contains the grant narrative and selected portions of a previously funded grant application. It is not intended to serve as a model, but to give you a sense of how a successful application may be crafted. Every successful application is different, and each applicant is urged to prepare a proposal that reflects its unique project and aspirations. Prospective applicants should consult the Division of Preservation and Access application guidelines at <http://www.neh.gov/grants/preservation/national-digital-newspaper-program> for instructions. Applicants are also strongly encouraged to consult with the NEH Division of Preservation and Access staff well before a grant deadline.

Note: The attachment only contains the grant narrative and selected portions, not the entire funded application. In addition, certain portions may have been redacted to protect the privacy interests of an individual and/or to protect confidential commercial and financial information and/or to protect copyrighted materials.

**Project Title:** Oregon Digital Newspaper Program

**Institution:** University of Oregon, Eugene

**Project Director:** Karen Estlund

**Grant Program:** National Digital Newspaper Program

# Narrative

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## History and Scope of the Project

### History of Oregon Newspapers and Its History Captured Within (1860-1922)

Newspapers usually do not appear in a state until there are a sufficient number of readers to make their appearance worthwhile. Such is the case in Oregon. Until the 1830s Oregon had only a few outposts, connected with the fur trade. In the 1830s Protestant and Catholic missionaries accompanied a few settlers who ventured into the territory. However, the settlement of Oregon began in earnest with the Great Migration overland from the east in 1843. By 1846 there were enough people in the Willamette Valley to form a provisional government. In 1849 Congress recognized the Oregon Territory and statehood was granted in 1859.

### The First Newspapers

In 1844 the Oregon Lyceum was founded in Oregon City for the express purpose of providing the growing community with a newspaper. Shares were sold to finance the purchase of a press, type and paper. It took a while for the press to arrive from New York City, so it wasn't until February 5, 1846, that the first newspaper, the *Oregon Spectator*, appeared. Two years later a second newspaper, the *Free Press*, also began in Oregon City. The state's third newspaper, *Western Star*, appeared in the nearby town of Milwaukie in 1850, moving to Portland the following year to compete with the *Oregonian*, which was established there in December 1850. Celebrating 150 years of publication in the year 2000, the *Oregonian* is the oldest continuously published newspaper in the Far West and one of the few statewide newspapers in the country. In March 1851 the *Statesman* started up in Oregon City, but soon moved to Corvallis and then again to Salem where it is still published. By 1860 there were 13 newspapers in operation, of which two were dailies.<sup>1</sup> Oregon's early history, during 1860-1922, was a period of great growth and controversy. Oregon's population doubled nearly every decade during that time period beginning with 52,000 residents in 1860 and 783,389 residents recorded in the 1920 census.<sup>2</sup>

Due to the expense of importing printing presses—transport options were limited to freighting over the Oregon Trail or shipping around Cape Horn—many of Oregon's early papers were printed on a small handful of presses. As a publisher became prosperous enough to buy state-of-the-art equipment, the old press was sold and became in turn the start-up press of a new publication. One of these seminal presses now stands in a place of honor in the University of Oregon's School of Journalism.

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<sup>1</sup> George S. Turnbull, *History of Oregon Newspapers* (Portland, Or.: Binfords & Mort, Publishers, 1939).

<sup>2</sup> Oregon State Archives, "Oregon History: Chronological Events," *Oregon Blue Book*, <http://bluebook.state.or.us/cultural/history/chronhome.htm>.

## Racial Conflict

### *African Americans in Oregon*

Oregon passed exclusion laws that denied blacks admittance to the Oregon Territory in 1857 and remained as part of the Oregon constitution until 1926. “Whether or not slaves could be brought into the Oregon Territory was one of the leading legal and political questions of early Oregon History.”<sup>3</sup> In 1860 the black population of Oregon was only 128 according to the census.<sup>4</sup> The arguments for and against the exclusion laws are documented in editorials in early Oregon Newspapers, which affected African Americans, Native Americans, and Chinese. Many reasons were put forth by early Oregonians to exclude blacks from the state, including keeping out the conflicts that had affected other parts of the United States, fear of free blacks, expansion of rights to other minorities, and general racism.<sup>5</sup> An editorial in the *Bedrock Democrat* (Baker City) from 1865 states: “If we make the African a citizen, we cannot deny the same right to the Indian or the Mongolian.”<sup>6</sup>

Although Oregon ended up on the side of the Union in the War Between the States, at the time there was much pro-Southern sentiment in the state that was passionately reflected in several newspapers. The Republicans, in control of the state government, brought pressure to bear on the postal authorities to refuse to handle these “abusive and treasonable” papers through the mail, in effect putting them out of business.<sup>7</sup> Some newspapers resorted to hand delivery, others changed their name and resumed publication until again forced to shut down—only to be quickly reborn again under yet another name in an attempt to fool the post office.

The first African American newspaper in Oregon was the *New Age*, published in Portland by A.D. Griffin from 1896 to 1905. Griffin was elected as a Republican delegate to the state convention twice. The *New Age* appealed to an audience beyond the black community and incorporated national and international events along with the activities of the local black community.<sup>8</sup> Oregon’s second African American newspaper was the *Advocate* founded by a group of local Portland black men and E.D. Cannady as editor in 1903 and was a more “up-beat” newspaper than the *New Age*.<sup>9</sup> Beatrice Cannady, the first African American female lawyer in Oregon, became the assistant editor in 1912.

During the Progressive Era, many attempts were made to remove the exclusion clauses from the Oregon constitution. A 1905 editorial from the *New Age* describes the efforts of Senator Brownell to introduce

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<sup>3</sup> Lenwood G. Davis, “Sources for History of Blacks in Oregon,” *Oregon Historical Quarterly*, 73 (1972): 201.

<sup>4</sup> Elizabeth McLagan, *A Peculiar Paradise: A History of Blacks in Oregon, 1788-1940* (Portland, Or.: The Georgian Press, 1980), 61.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, 28-29.

<sup>6</sup> *Bedrock Democrat* (1865); quoted in Gayle K. Berardi and Thomas W. Segady, “The Development of African-American Newspapers in the American West: A Sociohistorical Perspective,” *The Journal of Negro History*, 75:3/4 (Summer/Autumn 1990): 101.

<sup>7</sup> Turnbull.

<sup>8</sup> McLagan, 110.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*, 111.

a constitutional amendment that includes eliminating “the section disfranchising Negroes” along with matters of state such as eliminating “the provision that all state institutions shall be located at the capital.” The editorial remarks that “the absence of two or three members was probably the cause of its defeat.”<sup>10</sup>

The Portland chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the oldest continually chartered chapter west of the Mississippi River, was founded in 1914. Beatrice Cannady was one of the founders and was criticized for focusing her reporting in the *Advocate* on NAACP activities in which she was involved.<sup>11</sup> Few other Oregon newspapers covered the activities of the NAACP. An exception appeared in the 1915 *Oregonian* titled “Colored Laud Lincoln: Emancipation Day Celebrated by Gathering at Church;” the story, however, had a clear emphasis on the “Lincoln” portion of the day.<sup>12</sup>

The Ku Klux Klan organized in Oregon in 1921, although Klan members and similar activities have been documented well before then. In Elizabeth McLagan’s *A Peculiar Paradise*, she discusses the newspaper accounts of an early 20<sup>th</sup> century incident in Coos Bay where a black man named Alonzo Tucker was lynched for allegedly assaulting the wife of a white man. Oregon newspapers reported the incident according to the attitudes of their editors and communities. An account in the *Oregon Journal* (Portland) concluded its story, “But the hand of justice had secured too strong a grip on the miscreant and all the pleading in the world would not have saved him from the death he so thoroughly deserved.” The *Oregonian* reported that “[t]he sentiment of the community is in sympathy with the lynchers, and it is extremely improbable any arrests will be made”, whereas, the *New Age* suggested that the lynchers be punished.<sup>13</sup>

In Turnbull’s *History of Oregon Newspapers*, he makes no mention of any of the early black newspapers. Incomplete copies of the *New Age* and the *Advocate* exist, and they help give us another view of African American history in Oregon that may otherwise be left out.

### ***Native Americans in Oregon***

The Modocs had been relocated to a reservation with the Klamaths by the Klamath Treaty of 1864. The Modocs and Klamaths were long-time rivals; peace on the reservation did not last long. The Modoc War began in Southern Oregon in 1872 when the Modocs, led by Captain Jack, refused to stay on the reservation with the Klamaths, and the federal government continued to force them to coexist with their Klamath rivals. Accounts of the events of the Modoc War, what was known as the “last Indian War,” were prevalent in Oregon newspapers. An article in the *Bedrock Democrat* in 1873 described an agreement between Captain Jack of the Modocs and the federal Peace Commission to “surrender as

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<sup>10</sup> Editorial: “Constitutional Convention,” *New Age*, 4 Feb 1905.

<sup>11</sup> Elizabeth McLagan. *A Peculiar Paradise: a History of Blacks in Oregon, 1788-1940* (Portland, Or.: The Georgian Press, 1980), 123.

<sup>12</sup> “Colored Laud Lincoln: Emancipation Day Celebrated by Gathering at Church,” the *Oregonian*, 2 January 1915, p. 4.

<sup>13</sup> McLagan, 135-137.

prisoners of war and be removed to some Reservations outside of Oregon.”<sup>14</sup> On April 11, during talks with a Peace Commission, Captain Jack and members of his tribe killed the Commissioners and ended peace efforts. In July of 1873, Captain Jack was captured, and he and other Modoc tribe members were put to trial for “murder of citizens and implicated in the assassination of the Peace Commissioners.”<sup>15</sup> Captain Jack, John Schonchin, Black Jim, and Boston Charley were hanged at Fort Klamath in October 1873, and the tribe was removed to Oklahoma.<sup>16</sup>

The Nez Perce Indian War began in 1877 in the Wallowa valley when the federal government claimed almost 6 million acres of land that had been guaranteed by treaties to the Nez Perce and attempted to remove the Nez Perce to Idaho. Chief Joseph and his brother Olikut led the Nez Perce in battle against General Oliver O. Howard and his troops.<sup>17</sup> Chief Joseph was widely liked in the Oregon press. An excerpt from an article in the *Oregon Statesman* (Salem) describes the Nez Perce and Chief Joseph:

The accounts are confirmed that Joseph, the hostile Nez Perce Chief, has endeavored to carry on war in a civilized manner.... But it is one of the most melancholy incidents of the Indian wars, to find any portion of the faithful tribe so discontented as to commence hostilities. The tribe has been remarkable for their intelligence, docility and their avowed wish for education and civilization. We do not wish at this time to go into the causes which have led to this outbreak...<sup>18</sup>

Remarkably, the causes of the war and the complaints of the tribe are not documented in the article. The Nez Perce surrendered on October 5, 1877. Following the surrender, Chief Joseph continued to speak against policies that hurt Native Americans and lectured around the country.

In 1878, the Bannock-Paiute Indian War spilled into Oregon from Idaho. The war began over disagreements between the Bannock and white settlers over grazing land. The involvement of the Northern Paiute tribe is controversial and was defended at the time by Sarah Winnemucca of the Northern Paiutes.<sup>19</sup> At the end of the war, the Northern Paiutes were marched to the Yakima Reservation. In 1880, Sarah Winnemucca of the Northern Paiutes began a lecture circuit and writing campaign in newspaper columns against the imprisonment of the Northern Paiutes who were held on the Yakima Reservation in Washington Territory.<sup>20</sup> In order to discredit her, William V. Rinehart, the Indian Agent on the Malheur Reservation launched attacks on her character. An article appeared in the *Bedrock Democrat* stating:

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<sup>14</sup> “The Modocs Gain Another Victory!” *Bedrock Democrat*, 2 March 1873.

<sup>15</sup> Fort Klamath. *Bedrock Democrat*, 16 July 1873, p. 1.

<sup>16</sup> “The Modoc War,” *Wikipedia*, [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Modoc\\_War](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Modoc_War),

<sup>17</sup> “Chief Joseph,” *New Perspectives on the West* (The West Film Project / Public Broadcasting Network) available from [http://www.pbs.org/weta/thewest/people/a\\_c/chiefjoseph.htm](http://www.pbs.org/weta/thewest/people/a_c/chiefjoseph.htm).

<sup>18</sup> “Joseph, The Nez Perces Chief,” *Oregon Statesman*, 5 October 1877, p. 4.

<sup>19</sup> “Sarah Winnemucca: ‘A Notorious Liar and Malicious Schemer,’ 1880,” in *Oregon Indians: Voices from Two Centuries*, ed. Stephen Dow Beckham (Corvallis, Or.: Oregon State University Press, 2006), 276.

<sup>20</sup> *Ibid.*

This same Sallie Winnemucca has lately been receiving a great deal of notice at the hands of the press, even many of the Pacific Slope journals landing the squaw in Fennimore Cooper style. Time does not improve the Princess much. She has been a prostitute and drunkard ever since the age of seventeen...<sup>21</sup>

Sarah worked as a translator for the Department of Indian Affairs, and she negotiated the return of the Paiute people to the Malheur reservation directly with the Secretary of the Interior Carl Schurz.<sup>22</sup>

As the Indian wars disappeared from life in Oregon, accounts of Native Americans generally disappeared from Oregon newspapers.

### ***Chinese Americans in Oregon***

Chinese arrived in Oregon around 1851.<sup>23</sup> As California faced an economic crisis in the 1870s, many Chinese came to Oregon for work. In 1870, 61% of miners in Oregon were Chinese.<sup>24</sup> Chinese workers were also recruited to build the railroads and often performed the earlier, more strenuous tasks before other workers were brought in. A local paper reports an update of railroad construction progress: "Scobie's force of nearly 300 men will undoubtedly be in Siskiyou county about the middle of July and also a few camps of the potholers, who are all chinamen, except the bosses."<sup>25</sup> Early work for the Chinese was also found in the canneries in Astoria when Ed Hume opened a factory there.<sup>26</sup> This influx of population and threat of "cheap labor" influenced the passing of exclusion laws against the Chinese. Fear of this also contributed to accounts of misdeeds by the strong and "wily Chinese," which abound in early Oregon newspapers. An article in the *Bedrock Democrat*, titled the "The Heathen Chinese," tells the tale of a squatter who when found "received a blow which sent him down [the stairs] head foremost. An eyewitness said, 'If it had been anyone but a Chinaman the fall would have broken his neck'."<sup>27</sup>

In addition to manual labor occupations, many Chinese succeeded in business and achieved economic prosperity in Oregon. Much of the evidence for the prevalence of Chinese business can be found in the advertising sections of early Oregon Newspapers. As early 1851, the Tong Sung House, "a boarding house and a restaurant," advertised in the *Oregonian*.<sup>28</sup>

In 1887, a group of successful Chinese miners along the Snake River were murdered by a group of local horse thieves in what was called the Snake River Massacre. The bodies were so badly mutilated that

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<sup>21</sup> Ibid., 281.

<sup>22</sup> Ibid., 276.

<sup>23</sup> *Dreams of the West: History of the Chinese in Oregon 1850-1950*. (Portland, Or.: Ooligan Press, 2007), 23.

<sup>24</sup> Ibid., 29.

<sup>25</sup> "Railroad Items," *Rogue River Courier*, 18 June 1887, p.1.

<sup>26</sup> *Dreams of the West*, 35.

<sup>27</sup> "The Heathen Chinese," *Bedrock Democrat*, 14 January 1880.

<sup>28</sup> [Advertisement] *Oregonian*, 1851; described in *Dreams of the West*, 51.

only 10 were recovered from the mining party of 20.<sup>29</sup> Several thieves were caught and tried, but the jury found them not guilty. According to an account of the trial, the defendants were “neither principals or accessories to the killing, but knew of its committal and were powerless to prevent it...The murder was a brutal one...it is doubtful if they [four men not on trial] will ever be caught.”<sup>30</sup> The Snake River Massacre stands out as one of the most violent acts against the Chinese in early Oregon history.

As many of the mining, cannery, and railroad expansion job opportunities began to decline, the exclusion acts began to be enforced, and many Chinese migrated to British Columbia.<sup>31</sup>

## Expansion of Women’s Rights

### Labor

In 1903, Oregon passed a state law that women could not work more than a 10-hour day. In 1908 that law was tested with the Supreme Court in *Muller vs. Oregon*, where Curt Muller challenged a \$10 fine for forcing women in his laundry business to work over ten-hour days. The U.S. Supreme Court upheld the Oregon law on February 24, 1908 in a landmark decision for women’s labor rights.<sup>32</sup> The decision documented in the *Oregonian* leads with captions, “Women Must be Protected – Difference Between Sexes Makes it Essential.” The article cites the opinion of Justice Brewer:

That woman’s physical structure and performance of material function place her at a disadvantage in the struggle for subsistence is obvious. Continuance for a long time on feet at work, repeating this from day to day, tends to injurious effects upon her body, and as healthy mothers are essential to vigorous offspring, to preserve the strength and vigor of the race, the physical well-being of woman becomes an object of public interest and care.<sup>33</sup>

Although a labor victory for women, this case also furthered the distinction between the sexes and continued to dictate that women to be treated differently than men.

### Suffrage

One of the most noted of the outspoken publishers of Oregon newspapers was Abigail Scott Duniway, a campaigner for women’s rights. Duniway’s brother, Harvey Scott, editor of the *Oregonian*, promoted a conservative Republican agenda. To publicize her opposition to Scott, Duniway started her own publication in 1871, and conducted a lively debate with her brother through the editorial pages of her *New Northwest*. Duniway was instrumental in the 1912 passage of voting rights for Oregon women; she was also the first woman to register, and the first woman to cast a vote in an Oregon election, eight years before women gained the right to vote nationwide. An editorial in the *Oregonian* expressed, “The

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<sup>29</sup> *Dreams of the West*, 82.

<sup>30</sup> “Acquitted of Murder,” *Bedrock Democrat*, 10 September 1888, p.1.

<sup>31</sup> *Dreams of the West*, 36.

<sup>32</sup> *Muller v. State of Oregon*, 208 U.S. 412 (1908), FindLaw, <http://laws.findlaw.com/us/208/412.html>.

<sup>33</sup> “State May Limit Woman’s Work,” *Oregonian*, 25 February 1908, p.1.

agitation was begun by Mrs. Duniway, and has been carried on by her unceasingly; and whatever progress it has made has been due to her, more than to all other agencies together. But for her, indeed, the subject would scarcely have been mentioned in Oregon to this day, and little considered.”<sup>34</sup> A cartoon in the McMinnville *Telephone Register* puts a comic spin on an anti-suffragist argument, “NOT A NEW EXPERIENCE/ Anti-suffragists depict the above [below] as an awful-condition to come. We contend that it already exists and should not stand as an argument against suffrage.”<sup>35</sup>



Figure 1: “Not a New Experience”

## Natural Resources, Industry, and Economic Development

### *Resources and Industry*

Oregon’s natural resources were ideal for economic development and growth in the American West. Many early newspapers boasted of the resources in the state and tried to lure business for investment in the region.

The brilliant picture of prosperity drawn upon the map of the near future for our State depends not on the fact that it is an agricultural section; that coal, iron, gold and silver abound; that its stock range is of vast extent; and its natural facilities for manufactures

<sup>34</sup> Editorial, the *Oregonian*, 20 August 1906.

<sup>35</sup> “Not a New Experience,” the *Telephone Register*, 1 March 1912, p. 1.



and commerce are unsurpassed, but upon all of these collectively...Our State has all the resources in a crude state that go to make up the sum of prosperity. We need capital and labor to develop these resources.<sup>36</sup>

Oregon's newspapers not only discussed the resources of the State but actively argued for the expansion of mining, farming production, ranching, manufacturing, fisheries, and transportation development to increase economic development.

Early farming in Oregon and the Willamette Valley focused on wheat production. An 1867 article in the *Oregonian* promoted further wheat production in a year of unsold surplus: "If the amount of wheat which the State now has to dispose of were twenty-fold greater, we should have a better market, because buyers would know where to come to purchase."<sup>37</sup> The *Willamette Farmer* (Salem) published from 1869-1887 was the first newspaper in Oregon to focus on agriculture and related economic and political issues.

Salmon canneries began to flourish in the 1870s in Astoria and along the entire Columbia River. By 1877, the salmon population began to wane. The *Willamette Farmer* warned of decline, "unless some precaution is taken to propagate the fish and so replenish the stock," but also lobbied for the opening of new hatcheries along the Rogue and other Southern Oregon rivers and adding shad into the Columbia River system.<sup>38</sup>

Water in Oregon was important for all industries as a source of transportation, consumption for grazing livestock, watering crops, hydraulic mechanisms and drilling for mining and railroad expansion, a habitat for fish, and lumber floats. In the 1860s, Oregon's sheep and cattle grazing industry flourished, but by the 1880s, lack of enough water in southeastern Oregon made large scale cattle grazing unsustainable.<sup>39</sup> The *Oregon Spectator* and the *Oregon Statesman* emphasized the importance of water power to the success of the lumber industry.<sup>40</sup>

The lumber industry came later in Oregon's history and didn't gain a strong foothold until the early 1900s. In much of the Cascades region, it became the most profitable industry in the area.<sup>41</sup>

For years this land [Western Oregon] has laid vacant in the surrounding hills and no one has cared to take any but the very best and most accessible [timber]. But what a

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<sup>36</sup> "Diversity of Oregon's Resources," *Portland Bee*, reprinted in the *Bedrock Democrat*, 10 March 1880, p. 1.

<sup>37</sup> *Oregonian*, October 1867; quoted in Robbins, *Landscapes of Promise: The Oregon Story: 1800-1940* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1997), 100.

<sup>38</sup> William G. Robbins, *Landscapes of Promise*, 137.

<sup>39</sup> William G. Robbins, "The Great Divide: Resettlement and the New Economy: The Coming of Range Cattle," This Land – Oregon. *The Oregon History Project* (Portland, Or.: Oregon Historical Society, 2002), [http://www.ohs.org/education/oregonhistory/narratives/subtopic.cfm?subtopic\\_ID=33](http://www.ohs.org/education/oregonhistory/narratives/subtopic.cfm?subtopic_ID=33).

<sup>40</sup> Robbins, *Landscapes of Promise*, 181.

<sup>41</sup> *Ibid.*, 234.

wonderful change has been wrought in the last few years! Timber is becoming more scarce while the demand for it is steadily increasing.<sup>42</sup>

Little attention in the newspapers was paid to the impact of any development until resources were used up, which contrasted with many tales of Oregon scenery and forest travels that were recounted for readers. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century efforts were made to reclaim some of the land ravaged by grazing and the Klamath Irrigation Projection. The project was lauded in several Oregon newspapers and served as a beginning to further land reclamation projects in the state.

### ***Transportation***

Transportation was essential to the progress of economic development and distributing the goods made from the state's resources. From the 1870s through the early 1900s railroads were constructed and canals built to help move goods out of Oregon. The enthusiasm for the railroad and water transportation and the prospects it brought was expressed in many newspapers and negotiations chronicled within. In William Robbins' *Landscapes of Promise*, he describes an article from an 1872 issue of the *Willamette Farmer* describing the railroad network coming to Oregon as "true measures of progress, the symbols of improvement and betterment in a new country."<sup>43</sup> In a 1902 issue of the *Rogue River Courier* (Grants Pass), discussions between Col. Draper of Oregon & Pacific Railroad and the citizens and officers of Grants Pass are covered in detail. In the following excerpt, Col. Draper explains the advantages of a railroad through Grants Pass and why it should be done "free of cost:"

...deposits of gold and chrome iron have been famous for forty years [in that area], but, above all, there are vast tracts of redwood and other timber...every time you get a freight shipment or go to Portland or San Francisco, [you realize] that the charges of that road are somewhat excessive.... I beg to make the following proposition: If you will furnish to our Company a sufficient right of way...and also adequate terminal to bring us to a connection with the Southern Pacific R.R. within your city limits, free of cost to us, we will immediately begin the survey of the road [and begin work].<sup>44</sup>

The proposal was accepted.

### **Recreation and Conservation**

Recreation and conservation have long been part of Oregon's history and attraction. As industry began to deplete the natural resources in Oregon, a movement of conservationists began to lobby for land to be set aside. In 1894 the Mazama club was formed on Mt. Hood to promote outdoor adventure in Oregon, and the club is still active today. Many of the Mazama adventures were chronicled in local newspapers." While in the vicinity of Mt. Pitt the party ascended that famous peak...On the summit

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<sup>42</sup> "Timber Land in Demand," *Rogue River Courier*, 26 June 1902, p. 1.

<sup>43</sup> Robbins, *Landscapes of Promise*, 115.

<sup>44</sup> "Railroad May Be Built," *Rogue River Courier*, 1 May 1902, p. 1.

they found the Mazama's cooper box and they added their names to the roll of that society."<sup>45</sup> For the less adventurous, many railroads offered scenic tours, which were also described in articles: "The crossing of the great mountain barrier between Oregon and California reveals the grandest mountain scenery in the United States."<sup>46</sup>

During this period, many new "natural wonders" were discovered in Oregon and the movement for conservation started around the turn of the century. Conservation and outdoor recreation were considered to be intertwined in the early history of Oregon. Early efforts of the Mazamas were to protect land. In a 1902 story from the *Rogue River Courier*, Crater Lake's inception as a National Park is described:

That the Crater Lake region has been made a National Park by the act of the Fifty-seventh Congress is a source of gratification for the Mazamas, who were the pioneers of the movement... The very fact of its remarkable origin suggest a forcible reason why such a wonderful feature of natural scenery should be made accessible to the tourists of the United States and become the center of one of the most attractive of the Nation's parks.<sup>47</sup>

The Oregon Caves were declared a National Monument in 1909. An early newspaper article describes them as "great and remarkable labyrinths [that] lie in the midst of a forest solitude, are reached only by a narrow trail, and are comparatively unexplored."<sup>48</sup> Today's outdoor recreation industry in Oregon can largely thank the early conservation efforts.

### **The Growth of Oregon Newspapers**

In 1880 Oregon had seven dailies, 58 weeklies, and eight published at other intervals for a total of 74 papers. By 1916 this figure had more than tripled, to 270 papers. During the Depression many papers folded until by 1940 there were only 125. Outside of the Portland metropolitan area, Oregon is basically a large state with only a few medium-sized cities and many small towns. This is reflected in the present publishing pattern of only 19 dailies, but ten semi-weeklies and 76 weeklies.

### **Newspapers at University of Oregon**

Collection and preservation of Oregon newspapers at the University of Oregon began around 1901, with the efforts of two professors. Historian Joseph Schaefer and sociologist Frederick Young solicited runs of newspapers from all parts of the state, to build a single repository for use by future scholars and citizens.

In 1953, with the support and collaboration of the Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association (ONPA), the University of Oregon Libraries began a project for the "eventual filming of nearly all Oregon papers,"

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<sup>45</sup> "Mount Pitt's Great Blow Hole," *Rogue River Courier*, 6 March 1902, p. 2.

<sup>46</sup> "Grand Scenery of Shasta Route," *Rogue River Courier*, 6 March 1902, p. 1.

<sup>47</sup> "Crater Lake," *Rogue River Courier*, 1 August 1902, p. 1.

<sup>48</sup> "Great Oregon Caves," *Rogue River Courier*, 26 June 1902, p. 1.

according to an article in the January 1953 issue of the ONPA's newsletter, *Oregon Publisher*. The Libraries entered into agreements with individual publishers whereby the Libraries would perform the microfilming and provide one positive copy to the publisher at a cost of \$18 per 1200-page reel. (The current charge to publishers is \$60 per reel.) This microfilming venture is currently known as the Oregon Newspaper Project (ONP). Today the Libraries' microfilm collection includes the majority of all newspapers ever published in the state of Oregon.

The ONP began by filming existing back sets, the oldest being titles published in the 1840s during Oregon's territorial period. Through USNP, ONP was able to catalog and film many titles and to refile up to national standards three of the most significant early titles: the *Oregonian* (Portland), the *Register-Guard* (Eugene), and the *Statesman-Journal* (Salem). The Bancroft Library at the University of California, the Oregon Historical Society, and Oregon State University have chosen to deposit negatives of Oregon newspapers produced during their earlier filming operations in the collection of the Oregon Newspaper Project at the University of Oregon.

The Libraries hold master negatives of over 1,300 Oregon newspaper titles ranging from single issues to runs of many decades. The Libraries' Microforms Collection also holds positive film for approximately 350 additional Oregon titles filmed by other organizations, chiefly the Oregon Historical Society and the Bancroft Library. With the exception of seven titles that are filmed commercially, all newspapers currently published in Oregon are filmed at no cost to the publisher through the Oregon Newspaper Project.

The Oregon Newspaper Project is a self-supporting venture, recovering costs through the sale of microfilm to customers, primarily Oregon newspaper publishers and libraries. Staff includes a half-time microfilm technician and 3.0 FTE student employees. The Images Services Center of the Metadata Services & Digital Projects Department oversees the ONP project. The University of Oregon Libraries retains all negatives, with the exception of other institutions' student newspapers, places a service copy in its collection, and produces additional service copies for customers. In addition to the catalog records provided through OCLC and the Libraries' OPAC, the ONP maintains a relational database of its inventory.

The database, constructed in Microsoft Access, contains the inventory of microfilmed Oregon newspapers held by the Libraries, the negatives produced by the ONP, and those deposited by other institutions. In addition to providing prompt bibliographic and holdings information for people seeking information about Oregon newspapers, the database manages reel programming and produces targeting; tracks quality and production data, invoicing and shipping data, subscriptions and standing orders; and produces statistical reports as well as one-click lists of titles and holdings for a specified city or county.

The University of Oregon Libraries has the only preservation microfilming operation in the Pacific Northwest. Through the influence of the USNP: Oregon, microfilming operations have undergone thorough physical renovation and procedural revision, and now produce film meeting national preservation standards. The UO Microfilming Lab has already fostered a regional interest in increased

preservation microfilming, as well as much more active communication about cooperative preservation activities between local libraries, museums and archives.

During the USNP project, the UO Libraries' completed CONSER records for all titles microfilmed during USNP. The records are available through OCLC, and information for 837 titles is available in the "Find" section of the *Chronicling America* web site. Cataloging of newspaper microfilm up to CONSER standards is now a regular activity for the UO Libraries Serials Cataloging Team.

The *Oregonian* is one of the few US newspapers that is truly a statewide paper, and it is an important resource in the history of Oregon. In 2005, The UO Libraries received an Institute of Museum and Library Services Library Services Technology Act grant to create the *Oregonian* Index (<http://libweb.uoregon.edu/dc/newspaper/oregonian/>). The *Oregonian* Index receives nearly 2 million page views per month. The availability of the index has increased the usage of the *Oregonian* in the microfilm collection and spurred the desire for a digitized newspaper collection for Oregon newspapers.

In December of 2007, the UO Libraries and the Oregon State Library organized a group of stakeholders from around the state who were interested in embarking on a statewide newspaper digitization program including: historians, archivists, librarians, newspaper publishers, and the Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association (ONPA). From the enthusiastic discussions at the meeting, we have pursued the following efforts to start an Oregon Digital Newspaper Program headquartered at the University of Oregon Libraries:

- We applied for and received an LSTA grant to digitize 200,000 pages of rural newspaper content, which will start in early 2009.
- The Oregon Heritage Commission has granted \$145,000 to leverage funding from other sources for newspaper digitization.
- We are currently working with State Representative Nancy Nathanson to investigate options for funding from the Oregon State Legislature including Policy Option Packages and a state legislative appropriations bill.
- We are in discussions with the Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association on how they can support the project. We wrote articles for their newsletter, and the ONPA Board will be discussing financial and other involvement in the coming months.
- We are submitting this application for NDNF as an outcome from those discussions.

## **Methodology and Standards**

### **Access to Master Negative Microfilm**

The University of Oregon Libraries holds the largest collection of newspaper master negative microfilm as part of the Oregon Newspaper Project (ONP) and contains copies of every known title. The Libraries owns the master reels of microfilm for approximately 600 titles in scope of NDNF 2009.

The Image Services Center has extensive experience in reading film densities, quality review, and making copies of the reels. In the facility renovated during the USNP project, microfilming continues today for nearly all the papers in the state. Of the 600 titles in scope of NDNP 2009, phase 327 titles were microfilmed during the USNP project. Other reels were done earlier and will require more testing for suitability for digitization. See Appendix A for a full list of newspaper titles within the scope of 1806-1922. All microfilm negatives to be considered for NDNP 2009 are held by the University of Oregon Libraries.

## **Title Selection**

Newspaper titles for digitization will be selected by the Advisory Board. In preparation for their selection, titles will be pre-screened for meeting NDNP scope and technical/quality requirements. Using the list of titles in Appendix A, the Image Services Microfilm Technician will make an initial assessment of suitability for digitization by using existing information in our Access database on density, resolution, reduction ratio, focus, condition, and completeness of issues. She will also sample images on each reel to test against the accuracy of the information in the database.

The Advisory board will meet twice a year to perform the final title selection. The advisory board will be composed of archivists, librarians, historians, and educators. They will be given the following information about titles from the pre-selected range:

- Temporal coverage for the title and in context of the scope of this phase of NDNP.
- Complete title change and merger information
- Geographic representation and population numbers for geographic regions
- Political leanings if known
- Sample images from the positive reels
- Timeline of important events in Oregon and the US from 1860-1922
- Review form for ranking titles

The Advisory board will choose titles based on the following the content selection guidelines specified by the Library of Congress selection criteria: <http://www.loc.gov/ndnp/content-selection.html>. A listserv and Basecamp site will be set up, in the existing University of Oregon Libraries installation, to facilitate communication and distribute files and information to the advisory board.

For NDNP 2009, we will be focusing primarily on prominent weeklies that have a broad chronological span. A few dailies of note will be given to the advisory board for review, as well. There were very few dailies in long-term circulation that have not survived to present day. As per NDNP guidelines, titles that have ceased publication will also have a higher priority for NDNP digitization. We estimate that we will digitize approximately 15 titles as part of NDNP 2009. Sample titles presented to the advisory board for selection may include (page estimate based on 1860-1922 date range):

- Astoria, *Weekly Astorian* (published 1874-1901, weekly) – approx. 9,600 pages
- Astoria, *Morning Astorian* (published 1899-1930, daily) – approx. 60,000 pages
- Baker City, *Bedrock Democrat* (published 1870-1928, weekly) – approx. 8,700 pages
- Corvallis, *Corvallis Gazette* (published 1862-1899, weekly) – approx. 26,400 pages
- Gold Hill, *Gold Hill News* (published 1897- 1940s, weekly) – approx. 7,200 pages
- Grants Pass, *Rogue River Courier* (published 1886-1927, weekly) – approx. 10,000 pages
- Heppner, *Heppner Gazette* (published 1892-1912, weekly) – approx. 4,800 pages
- Marshfield (now Coos Bay), *Sun* (published 1891-1944, weekly) – approx. 4,800 pages
- McMinnville, *Telephone-Register* (published 1889-1953, weekly) – approx. 12,000 pages
- Milton, *Milton Eagle* (published 1887-1951, weekly) – approx. 11,400 pages
- Oregon City, *Courier* (published 1882-1919, weekly) – approx. 10,800 pages
- Pendleton, *East Oregonian* (published 1875 to present, weekly until 1911) – approx. 20,000 pages
- Portland, *Daily Bulletin* (published 1870s-1917, daily) – approx. 9. 600 pages
- Portland, *Evening Telegram* (published 1878-1919, daily) – approx. 104,000 pages
- Portland, *New Age* (published 1896-1905, weekly) – approx. 2,400 pages
- Portland, *Tribune* (published 1888-1920, daily) – approx. 14,400 pages
- Prineville, *Central Oregonian* (published 1880s to present, weekly until 1921) – approx 11,000 pages
- Roseburg, *Plaindealer* (published 1870-1904, weekly) – approx. 14,400 pages
- Salem, *Oregon Statesman* (published 1851-1980, present as *Statesman-Journal*, under several title and weekly/daily variations) – approx. 38,600 pages
- Salem, *Capitol Journal* (published 1889-1980) – approx. 9,600 pages
- Scio, *Santiam News* (1897-1917, weekly) – approx. 8,400 pages
- Sumpter, *Blue Mountain American* (published 1897-1917, weekly) – approx. 7,200 pages
- The Dalles, *Times Mountaineer* (published 1860-1903, weekly) – approx. 15,000 pages
- Tillamook, *Tillamook Headlight* (published 1888-1934, weekly) – approx. 10,000 pages
- Tillamook, *Tillamook Herald* (published 1896-1934, weekly) – approx. 8,000 pages

Several years ago, the UO Libraries loaned out positive microfilm reel copies to a small organization testing newspaper digitization. The resulting digital files are available for a fee on the following website: [http://www. heritagetrailpress. com/Newspapers/newspaper\\_archives. cfm](http://www.heritagetrailpress.com/Newspapers/newspaper_archives.cfm). This site distributes downloadable tiffs without online viewing or full text searching, and the image quality from the microfilm positives is not up to standards. If an advisory board member determines, that one of these titles should be prioritized for NDNP the Project Director will contact NEH to determine whether the previously digitized issues may be included in the digitization for the title run for NDNP.

## Digitization Infrastructure

The state's largest library system, the University of Oregon Libraries, is also the second largest library in the Pacific Northwest. The Libraries have assumed a leadership role within the state in the areas of

bibliographic control, digital collections, preservation, and resource sharing. The University of Oregon Libraries is committed to collaboration and cooperation to maximize the utility of historic and scholarly resources in the region and throughout the nation.

Within the Libraries, the Metadata Services and Digital Projects department provides intellectual, virtual, and physical access to the Libraries' collections, both analog and digital. This unit has responsibility for preserving the analog collections through microfilming, digitizing, and book conservation processes. The UO Libraries' digital collections available through DSpace and CONTENTdm currently number over 78,424 items in multiple collections, with new items being digitized and added every week. A sample of historic collections include *Picturing the Cayuse, Walla Walla and Umatilla Tribes* (<http://boundless.uoregon.edu/digcol/mh/index.html>) and the *Historic Sheet Music Collection* (<http://boundless.uoregon.edu/digcol/sheetmusic/index.html>). Recent serial projects include new issues of the University of Oregon student paper, the *Oregon Daily Emerald* (<http://boundless.uoregon.edu/digcol/ode/index.html>) and digitization of the *Collected Reprints from the University of Oregon Medical School* in the Institutional Repository (<https://scholarsbank.uoregon.edu/dspace/handle/1794/5036>).

The Project Director, Karen Estlund, as the Interim Head of Digital Technologies at the University of Utah Marriott Library, ran the Utah Digital Newspapers Program and was the Library's Project Director for the second half of phase one of NDNP and the inception of NDNP phase two. She supervised a majority of production and deliverables for phase one. (Example of the *Deseret Evening News*: <http://www.loc.gov/chroniclingamerica/lccn/sn83045555/1909-12-01/ed-1/seq-1>.) At that same time, she oversaw the processing of eight newspaper titles for Utah Digital Newspapers. (Example issue: <http://udn.lib.utah.edu/u?/davis8,8029>.)

The University of Oregon Libraries digital collections are supported by the following organizational structure:

- A full-time librarian as Digital Collections Coordinator
- A full-time librarian for visual resources and digital collections for course use
- A full-time Image Services Coordinator, 50% for digitization and 50% for microfilming
- A half-time metadata librarian for digital collections and three part-time digital metadata specialists
- A part-time Library of Congress authorities expert
- One full-time scanning production expert and three part-time scanning technicians
- A part-time web developer
- A part-time systems administrator

The current technical and hardware infrastructure includes:

- Two digital asset management systems/servers: DSpace and CONTENTdm
- Approximately 30 terabytes of storage space to store archival digital objects (8 TB currently used)



- LTO4 digital tape drive backup system running weekly backups. Tapes are stored in a facility outside of server locations.

## **Work Plan**

The University of Oregon Libraries NDNP team will include the Digital Collections Coordinator, Karen Estlund, as the Project Director, Image Services Coordinator, Lesli Larson, Reformatting Technician, Linda Sato, Project Manager to be hired, and Mary Greci, Serials Team Leader.

## **Initial Organization and Set-up (July 2009 – August 2009)**

- Hire Project Manager
- Set up accounting infrastructure with the University
- Prepare RFP for digitization vendors
  - RFP may include requirement to sample test reel
- Attend NEH/LC Awardee meeting
- Set up Project Manager work station with LC Validation tools and other necessary programs
- Contact Advisory Board Members to confirm participation
- Set up Advisory Board listserv and Basecamp site for communication
- Advertise for historian to write newspaper title essays
- Begin initial microfilm inspection and analysis for digitization suitability
- Create ranking sheet for title selection and print outs from positive scans of selections from titles

## **Selection of Titles (August 2009)**

- Convene first Advisory Board Meeting (August 2009)
  - Review title holdings list
  - Go over criteria and scope for NDNP
  - Fill out ranking sheets
- Tabulate results from ranking sheets
- Communicate title selection results with Advisory Board via listserv and Basecamp
- Selection of additional titles if necessary will follow the same procedure at subsequent advisory board meeting (February 2010)

## **Essays (August 2009 – April 2010)**

- Writer hired and contract paperwork completed (August 2009)
- Receive and edit title essays (500 words for each title digitized) from contracted historian
  - First title selections (September 2009 – October 2009)
  - Additional selections (if needed) as directed by Advisory Board after second Advisory Board meeting (March 2010 – April 2010)
- Send to NEH for review and comment (November 2009, May 2010)
- Revise if necessary

## **Evaluation of Microfilm and Metadata Creation (September 2009 – February 2011)**

- Develop tracking mechanism for film and files
- Develop worksheet for recording descriptive, technical, structural, and administrative metadata based on experience with the University of Utah's version or vendor required documentation
- Inspect microfilm for suitability for digitization using the USNP preservation microfilming guidelines and the *NDNP Technical Guidelines*
  - Physical condition, resolution, density, reduction ratio, focus
  - Completeness of content on reel
- Record required metadata as specified in *NDNP Technical Guidelines*
- In most cases, the ONP has the most complete set of film in the state. If missing issues or pages are found, we will coordinate with other institutions to find and borrow missing content. 10% of the page volume will be allocated to paper, in case no microfilm is available.
- Create a duplicate silver negative microfilm reel and prepare to send to vendor with metadata worksheet

## **Digitization, Processing, and Conversion by Vendor (October 2009 – April 2011)**

- The reels will be scanned at a minimum of 400 dpi and in 8-bit grayscale.
- Images will be cropped and deskewed.
- Additional structural and technical metadata will be supplied by vendor
- Deliverables will include
  - TIFF 6.0 and JPEG 2000 for each page image
  - OCR text and bounding boxes
  - PDF image with hidden text
  - METS objects with descriptive, structural, and technical metadata as specified in *NDNP Technical Guidelines*
- Deliverables will be divided into batches to fit on a 500 GB external hard drive.
- Batches will be validated using NDNP supplied software
- Vendor will deliver batches to UO Libraries for quality inspection
- Test batch will be prepared and sent to Library of Congress (December 2009)

## **Quality Review (December 2009 – May 2011)**

- Validate batch using NDNP validation supplied software tools
- Inspect all thumbnail images and look at film for inconsistencies if errors appear
- Verify number of expected pages
- Use the Digital Validation Viewer to inspect OCR and metadata from sample pages
- View full images for inspection of every first and last page of each reel and approximately every six images including all first pages of each issue. (In working on newspaper digitization at Univ.

of Utah, we found that the first pages of each issue were a good indicator of the quality of the rest of the issue. )

- Correct any problems with vendor and modify batch if needed
- Send validated files to the Library of Congress as specified in the Delivery of Digital Assets in the *NDNP Technical Guidelines*

### **Delivery to the Library of Congress (December 2009 – May 2011)**

- Deliver sample set of data to Library of Congress (December 2009)
- Deliver batches monthly of approximately 6,000 pages in 16 batches (January 2010-May 2011)
- Deliver silver negative microfilm reel duplicates at close of project (May 2011)

### **Cataloging (October 2009 – April 2011)**

- CONSER records for newspaper titles will be updated according to MARC21 standards with an 856 field linking to the digital newspapers
- Records will be delivered to Library of Congress

### **Reports and Progress (Dec 2009 – June 2011)**

- Interim reports will be written and delivered to NEH (approx. Dec. 2009, Jun. 2010, and Dec. 2010)
- Final report will be completed and submitted to NEH in June 2011

## **Staff**

### **Project Staff**

**Karen Estlund, Digital Collections Coordinator**, will serve as the Project Director for the project. Karen received her MLIS from the University of Washington. At the University of Utah Marriott Library, she ran many digital projects from theses and dissertations to ancient papyri. In that role, she administered the Utah Digital Newspapers Program, becoming the Project Director for the Utah's participation in the second half of NDNP phase one and the inception of NDNP phase two and overseeing the inclusion of eight newspaper titles through other projects. She has a year's experience as the PI for NDNP. For Oregon's participation in NDNP 2009, she will oversee the project and grant administration, facilitate Advisory Board meetings, provide input and communicate with NEH and LC as needed on project issues, prepare an RFP and select a vendor, engage an historian to write essays and evaluate content, train Project Manager, and supervise project staff. Karen will spend .30 FTE per year on the project.

**Lesli Larson, Image Services Coordinator**, supervised the USNP and coordinates the Oregon Newspaper Microfilming operation and digitization production in the University of Oregon Libraries. She attended newspaper microfilm and digitization trainings at the University of Utah, University of Kentucky, and in Denver with the Colorado Historic Newspaper Program. She will be responsible for helping prepare the RFP for vendor services, supervising the Microfilming Technician, preparing selection information for the

Advisory Board, and serving as the newspaper expert for the project. She will spend .10 FTE the first year and .05 FTE in the second year of the grant.

**To be hired, Project Manager**, will have strong organizational abilities and have experience working with newspapers or serials and/or familiarity with XML. He/she will manage the day-to-day operation and workflow, coordinate with the Reformatting Technician for reels to be sampled and copied, and serve as the liaison between the vendor and project team. He/she will ship and track all digitization deliverables between the vendor, the UO Libraries, and the Library of Congress. He/she will perform quality control on vendor deliverables including performing quality assurance on images, metadata, and OCR. The Project Manager will report to the Project Director and work closely with the Reformatting Technician. The Project Manager is a full-time position (1 FTE) for two years.

**Linda Sato, Reformatting Technician**, served as the Reformatting Technician during the Oregon USNP project and was responsible for all project-related microfilming and quality control and has continued in that role at the UO Libraries. She will assess microfilm quality for suitability for digitization including: measuring reduction ratio and resolution, density readings, completeness of content on film, and basic image assessment for dark shadows, skewing and other irregularities. She will also make the duplicate master negatives to send to the vendor for digitization and deposit at the Library of Congress. In addition, she will aid in the quality review of the digital assets. Her expertise and familiarity with the content on the reels and high level technical skills will be a great asset during this process. The Reformatting Technician position will spend .33 FTE per year on this project (half of the current .75 FTE position).

**Mary Greci, Serials Team Leader**, oversaw the cataloging related to microfilming during Oregon's involvement in USNP. Since then, she has incorporated all CONSER related activities into the Serials Team and continues to keep our newspaper records current. She will be responsible for reviewing and updating OCLC CONSER records, contributing 856 fields to records for the project, and preparing MARC21 records for delivery to the Library of Congress. Mary will spend .03 FTE per year on this project.

## **Advisory Board**

The Oregon Digital Newspaper Advisory board represents historians, librarians, archivists, educators, and newspaper publishers.

David Bilyeu, Director, Barber Library, Central Oregon Community College, Bend, Oregon

Mary Jane Cedar Face, Collection Development Coordinator / Social Sciences Librarian, Southern Oregon University, Ashland, Oregon

Gary Dielman, Historian, Baker, Oregon

Stafford Hazelett, Historian / Retired Oregon Attorney, Aloha, Oregon

Normandy Helmer, Access & Preservation Officer, University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon

Laurie Hieb, Executive Director, Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association, Portland, Oregon

Kyle Jansson, Coordinator, Oregon Heritage Commission, Salem, Oregon

Larry Landis, University Archivist, Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon  
William Robbins, Historian / Emeritus Professor, Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon  
George Vogt, Director, Oregon Historical Society, Portland, Oregon

The individuals are geographically dispersed in regions across the state.

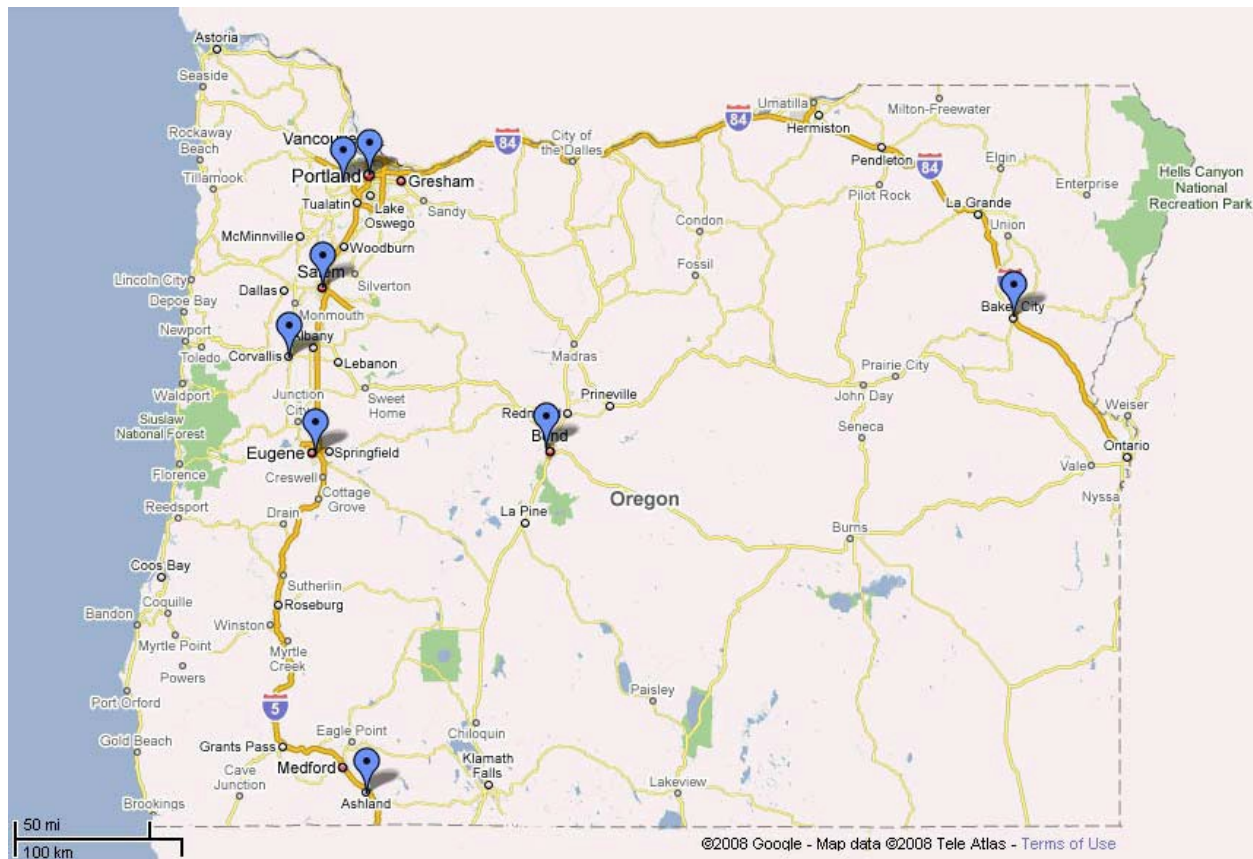


Figure 2: Locations of ODNP Advisory Board Members

## Conclusion

Many institutions from different constituencies across Oregon have come together in the last year to plan, promote, and support digitization of Oregon's newspapers. With the vast newspaper microfilm resources at the University of Oregon Libraries, staff experienced both with newspaper microfilming and digitization, and an experienced digitization infrastructure in place, Oregon is poised to launch an NDNP project.